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SUBJECT: ARMENIA: UN OPTIONAL ANTI-TORTURE CONVENTION
COMES INTO FORCE

¶1. The United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment came into force June 22 in Armenia. The Parliament unanimously ratified the Protocol on May 31. The Protocol, which the UN General Assembly adopted in December 2002, calls for the establishment of independent national mechanism(s) for the prevention of torture at the domestic level within one year of enforcement. According to Zhenya Petrosyan, the assistant to Armenia's human rights ombudsman, the GOAM has not decided yet which agency will be tasked to carry out the protocol's requirements.

EVANS